

2012 Seattle City Council Statement of Legislative Intent

Approved

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83	1	A	1

Budget Action Title: Parks Long-Term Funding Options

Councilmembers: Bagshaw; Conlin; Godden; Rasmussen

Staff Analyst: Sara Belz; Kieu-Anh King

Budget Committee Vote:

Date	Result	SB	BH	SC	TR	JG	NL	RC	TB	MO
11/08/2011	Pass 9-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Statement of Legislative Intent:

The City Council requests that the Parks Superintendent work with the Board of Parks Commissioners, the City Budget Office, the Mayor's Office, the City Attorney's Office, Council staff and interested community partners in 2012 to explore potential new sources of ongoing revenue for parks operations. This work should include the preparation of a written report for the Council's review. The written report should include, but not be limited to: (1) information on revenue sources used to fund parks operations in other jurisdictions, (2) the pros and cons of any potential new revenue sources, (3) the amount and stability of those revenue sources, and (4) descriptions of any required changes to state or municipal law. The Parks Superintendent should also identify, in ranked priority order, which potential new revenue sources, if any, should be subject to further consideration by the Council. The Council requests that the written report be submitted to the Council's Parks and Seattle Center Committee by June 30, 2012.

Background:

Seattle voters last approved parks levies in 1998 and 2008. Under both levies, most of the revenues raised were allocated for capital expenses, including land acquisitions and the development or renovation of parks facilities and open spaces. These new investments have increased the Department of Parks and Recreation's (DPR) operational responsibilities; however, funding for parks operations has not kept pace. Additionally, DPR's largest source of revenue, the City's General Subfund (GSF), is subject to fluctuations related to changing economic conditions and budgetary pressures. GSF support currently accounts for about two thirds of DPR's total annual revenues. Consequently, the Council is interested in identifying new, stable, ongoing revenue sources to support parks operations.

Responsible Council Committee(s): Parks and Seattle Center

Date Due to Council: Report due by June 30, 2012